U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Little Snake Field Office
455 Emerson Street
Craig, CO 81625-1129

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

EA NUMBER: CO-100-2008-091 EA

CASEFILE/ALLOTMENT NUMBER: 0501006/04224

PROJECT NAME: Renewal of the grazing permit on the Red Wash Allotment #04224

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: see Allotment Map, Attachment 1

Red Wash Allotment #04224	T9N R94W all of Sec. 19 Sec. 18 W½, Sec. 30 NW¼ T9N R95W all of Sec. 6, 7, 11, 13, 14, 18-27, 34. Sec. 15 E ½ & S ½ SW ¼, Sec. 28 E ½ & E ½ W ½, Sec. 33 E ½ & E ½ W ½ T9N R96W all of Sec. 1-3, 10-12, 13,14, Sec. 4 E ½, Sec. 9 E ½, Sec. 15 E ½, Sec. 23 N ¼, Sec. 24 N ¾ T10N R96W all Sec. 35 except NW ¼ NW ¼ NW ¼, Sec. 36 E ½, Sec. 34 most of SE ¼, SE ¼ NW ¼, SE ¼ NE ¼ 12,270 acres BLM 2,872 acres LU BLM 1,513 acres DOW 43 acres State Land Board 5,267 acres private 21,965 acres total

APPLICANT: Brannan Brothers, John & Ed

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action and Alternatives are subject to the

following plan:

Name of Plan: Little Snake Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision

Date Approved: April 26, 1989

Results: The Proposed Action has been reviewed for conformance with this plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3).

The Proposed Action is consistent with the Little Snake Resource Management Plan, Record of Decision, Livestock Grazing Management objective to improve range conditions for both wildlife and livestock through proper utilization of key forage plants and adjusting livestock stocking rates as a result of vegetation studies.

The majority of the allotment under the Proposed Action is located within Management Unit 3, Little Snake. The Proposed Action is compatible with the management objectives for this unit, which are to improve soil and watershed values, increase forage production, and enhance livestock grazing. The Proposed Action would not conflict with these objectives. A small portion of the allotment under the Propose Action is located within Management Unit 16, West Red Wash. The objective of this unit is to protect and restore the riparian ecosystem. The Proposed Action is compatible with this objective because the Brannan Brothers are following a grazing system with special grazing use in the riparian pasture located within this unit. The 1998 Little Snake Landscape Standards & Guidelines Assessment (which includes the Red Wash Allotment) indicates that riparian standards (standard 2) are being met or on an upward trend toward meeting standards.

NEED FOR PROPOSED ACTION: The Proposed Action is needed to respond to an expiring permit. The previous permit was issued for the term 03/01/1999 to 02/28/2009. This permit is subject to renewal at the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior, who delegated the authority to BLM, for a period of up to ten years. The U.S. Bureau of Land Management has the authority to renew the livestock grazing permit consistent with the provisions of the *Taylor Grazing Act, Public Rangelands Improvement Act, Federal Land Policy and Management Act,* and Little Snake Field Office's *Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement.* This Plan/EIS has been amended by *Standards for Public Land Health in the State of Colorado.*

The following Environmental Assessment (EA) will analyze the impacts of livestock grazing on public land managed by the BLM. The analysis will recommend terms and conditions to the permit/lease which improve or maintain public land health. The Proposed Action will be assessed for meeting land health standards.

In order to graze livestock on public land, the livestock producer (permittee) must hold a grazing permit. The grazing permittee has a preference right to receive the permit if grazing is to continue. The land use plan allows grazing to continue. This EA will be a site specific look to determine if grazing should continue as provided for in the land use plan and to identify the conditions under which it can be renewed.

PUBLIC SCOPING PROCESS: The BLM Little Snake Field Office sent out a Notice of Public Scoping on December 17, 2007 to determine the level of public interest, concern, and resource conditions on the grazing authorizations that were up for renewal in FY 2009. A Notice of Public Scoping was posted on the Internet, at the Colorado BLM Home Page, asking for public input on grazing permit and lease renewals. Individual letters were sent to the affected permittees and lessees informing them that their permit and/or lease was up for renewal and requesting any information they wanted included or taken into consideration during the renewal process. The issuance of a grazing permit is being carefully analyzed within the scope of the specific action being taken, resources issues or concerns, and public input received.

BACKGROUND: The Red Wash Allotment #04224 is in the "Improve" (I) management category. This allotment is located approximately 30 miles northwest of Craig, east of the Little Snake River, and north of the Great Divide topographic reference area. Moffat County roads #6, #19, and #21 bisect the allotment. Elevations within the allotment vary from approximately 5,850 to 6,860 feet. Surface runoff from the public lands drains into Red Wash or Shaffers Draw, and finally into the Little Snake River. The Little Snake State Wildlife Area (DOW) lies within or adjacent to this allotment. This allotment consists of seven pastures that partially lie in the area encompassed by the incomplete Bald Mountain Coordinated Resource Management Plan (CRMP).

The Bald Mountain CRMP was initiated in the early 1990's as an effort to address livestock/wildlife conflicts within the Bald Mountain Basin, which encompassed a total of 120,765 acres of federal, state, and private lands. Others issues addressed in this plan are hunting access, OHV use, riparian improvement, watershed conditions, and plant diversity. Six BLM grazing allotments, one of which was the Red Wash Allotment are included in this area. For unknown reasons the Bald Mountain CRMP was never completed and signed, the last draft on record is dated 5/1/1997 and appears to be mostly complete with only minor edits remaining.

In 1998 the Red Wash Allotment was included in the Little Snake Landscape Standards & Guidelines Assessment (stop 8). The executive summary for the Little Snake Landscape Standards & Guidelines Assessment found that all standards were being met, wildlife standards for Standards 3 & 4 were marginally met, or on an upward trend toward meeting standards for riparian standard 2.

Related to objectives of Management Unit 16, West Red Wash, the tributary of the Little Snake River within the Red Wash Allotment (reach 21) was rated "Functioning at Risk" (FAR) in 1994. The 1998 Little Snake Landscape Standards & Guidelines Assessment indicates that riparian standards (standard 2) are being met or on an upward trend toward meeting standards. This reach of the Little Snake River (reach 21) was re-assessed in 2004 and determined to be in Proper Functioning Condition (PFC). The grazing rotation in the current permit terms and conditions uses this pasture as part of a deferred rotation grazing schedule with riparian pasture use in the early spring allowing for vegetation re-growth. Actual use in this pasture has been less than authorized under the current permit and is proposed to remain a reserved pasture or be used for a maximum of 69 Animal Unit Months (AUMs) during June and July. Under the proposed action an additional 158 AUMs placed in voluntary non-use may be used in pasture six or other pastures with prior approval from an authorized official.

Although the Bald Mountain CRMP was never finalized the deferred rotational grazing system initiated under the draft Bald Mountain CRMP was put into the terms and conditions of the expiring permit. During the past ten years, due to drought conditions and acquisition of a base property lease and subsequent grazing lease for the Lower Spring Creek Allotment #04535, the grazing rotation has been modified to fit into on the ground conditions and circumstances. This modified rotation will be reflected in the Proposed Action. In addition, under the terms and conditions of the expiring permit, it was agreed that only 1,208 of the authorized 1,365 AUMs would be used between 1999 and 2001. This was in an effort to resolve conflicts between livestock and wildlife. Over that 3 years average AUMs/year were 1,024, and from 2002 to 2007 average AUMs/year were 745. The draft Bald Mountain CRMP also noted that the Brannan Brothers took a 317 AUM reduction on BLM and deeded lands in 1989, although this reduction is not reflected in the 1989 permit renewal or prior annual applications.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:

Proposed Action

Renew the grazing permit on the Red Wash Allotment #04224 for a period of ten years, expiring February 28, 2019. The permit would be renewed as follows:

From:

Allotment	Livestock	Dates			
Name & Number	Number & Kind	From	To	%PL	AUMs
Red Wash #04224	10 Horse	3/1	3/15	68	3
	308 Cattle	5/1	10/31	68	1267
	15 Horse	5/1	12/31	68	82
	10 Horse	1/1	2/28	68	13
					Total 1365

The above permit is subject the following Special Terms and Conditions:

1 As agreed to by the BLM, due to conflicts between livestock and wildlife, and to achieve the goals and objectives of the pending Bald Mountain Basin Coordinated Resource Management Plan (CRMP), a maximum of 1,208 AUMs will be used from 1999 until 2001. The remaining 157 AUMs will be help in nonuse.

2 You will follow the deferred rotation grazing system identified in the Bald Mountain Basin CRMP, see below.

3 You will be allowed five (5) days flexibility in pasture movement, including into and out of the allotment, as long as the amount of specified grazing use (AUMs) is not exceeded.

Bald Mtn Basin CRMP Deferred Rotation Grazing System (revised)

Year	Pasture Name or Number	Days of Use	Livestock Use Period
2000	6	28	5/1 – 5/28
	Rojo Ext. & Main Red Wash	40	5/29 – 7/8
	West Red Wash & Red Wash Ridge	40	7/9 – 8/17
	East of 19	41	8/8 – 9/26
	3	35	9/26 – 10/31
2001	3	34	5/1 – 6/3
	6	28	6/3 – 7/2
	West Red Wash & Red Wash Ridge	40	7/3 – 8/11
	Rojo Ext. & Main Red Wash	40	8/12 – 9/20
	East of 19	41	9/25 – 10/31
2002	6	28	5/1 – 5/28
	Rojo Ext. & Main Red Wash	30	5/28 – 6/28
	3	35	6/28 – 8/2
	East of 19	46	8/3 – 9/16
	West Red Wash & Red Wash Ridge	46	9/17 – 10/31
2003	East of 19	34	5/1 – 6/3
	6	28	6/3 – 7/2
	Rojo Ext. & Main Red Wash	41	7/3 – 8/14
	Main Red Wash & Red Wash Ridge	45	8/15 – 9/26
	3	35	9/26 – 10/31

To:

Allotment	Livestock	Dates			
Name & Number	Number & Kind	From	To	%PL	AUMs
Red Wash # 04224	10 Horse	3/1	3/15	68	3
	308 Cattle	5/1	6/5	68	248
	50 Cattle	6/1	8/1	68	69
	308 Cattle	8/18	12/10	68	792
	15 Horse	5/1	12/31	68	82
	10 Horse	1/1	2/28	68	13
					Total 1207
					Voluntary Non-Use 158
					Total Active Preference 1365

Proposed Grazing Rotation

Year	Pasture Name or Number	Days of Use	Livestock Use Period
(1) 2008	3	36	5/1 – 6/5
	*Lower Spring Creek	74	6/5 – 8/17
	East of 19	45	8/18 – 10/1
	Main Red Wash & Red Wash Ridge	31	10/2 – 11/1
	Rojo Ext. & West Red Wash	39	11/2 – 12/10
(2) 2009	East of 19	36	5/1 – 6/5
	*Lower Spring Creek	74	6/5 – 8/17
	3	45	8/18 – 10/1
	Rojo Ext. & West Red Wash	31	10/2 – 11/1
	Main Red Wash & Red Wash Ridge	39	11/2 – 12/10
(3) 2010	Rojo Ext. & Main Red Wash	36	5/1 – 6/5
	*Lower Spring Creek	74	6/5 – 8/17
	East of 19	45	8/18 – 10/1
	Main Red Wash & Red Wash Ridge	31	10/2 – 11/1
	3	39	11/2 – 12/10

* The Lower Spring Creek Allotment is not authorized under this permit, but is authorized separately under a base property lease that expires on 12/31/2011. In consultation with the permittee the BLM has proposed that the Lower Spring Creek Allotment be included in the rotation stated above, so that the riparian pasture 6 in the Red Wash Allotment can receive less use than previously authorized. In addition, the Lower Spring Creek Allotment will not appear on the actual permit due to billing and multiple authorizations in the Rangeland Administration System (RAS), the Lower Spring Creek Allotment and grazing rotation will be referred to in "Special Terms and Conditions" and separate permittee case file documentation.

The permittee anticipates retaining/renewing the base property lease for the Lower Spring Creek Allotment after 2011. The Lower Spring Creek Allotment is currently authorized for 149 cattle from 5/1 to 9/30 @ 20 % Public Land (PL) for 150 AUMs. The base property lease specifically states that "Cattle may enter Ranch on May 1st and stay thru the 23rd of July or any other 84 day period as agreed by the parties" The permittee must provide, and has, written approval from the base property owner for the above proposed rotation.

The above permit would be subject to Special Terms and Conditions as follows.

1) The rotation indicated above is dependent on the permittee maintaining authorization on the Lower Spring Creek Allotment #04535, which is authorized under a base property lease. Under

this rotation the Lower Spring Creek Allotment will be used as follows, 308 cattle from 6/5 to 8/17 @ 20% PL for 150 AUMs. If for any reason the Lower Spring Creek Allotment is not available for this rotation the permittee agrees to return to the original rotation outlined in the No Action Alternative.

2) Pasture 6, riparian pasture on the Little Snake River, will be not be used in the rotation but will be available for a maximum of 69 AUMs between 6/1 -8/1 for heifer breeding as needed. This pasture will also be available for emergency/reserved use at an additional 158 AUMs that have been placed in voluntary non-use. Emergency use would be considered as temporary ecological relief to other pastures under conditions such as drought, fire, range improvement, unanticipated utilization i.e. wildlife, trespass, or other circumstances when rest or reduced grazing would be ecologically beneficial to regularly grazed pastures. Reserved use would be considered under unforeseen conditions that temporally prevented regular use of the allotment and grazing rotation as authorized and would be prudent to sustain the livestock operation of the authorized user while maintaining ecological integrity of the allotment. Use of these additional 158 AUMs must have authorized officer approval prior to use.

3) You will be allowed five (5) days flexibility in pasture movement, including into and out of the allotment, as long as the amount of specified grazing use (AUMs) is not exceeded.

The permit would be subject to the Standard and Common Terms and Conditions (attachment 2).

No Action Alternative
The permit would be renewed for a period of ten years, expiring February 28, 2019, to the previous authorized user with the same terms and conditions as previously authorized.

Alternatives Considered but not Analyzed:

No Grazing Alternative
No livestock grazing would take place under this alternative.

This alternative is eliminated from detailed study because it is not a realistic, implementable alternative nor does it meet the requirements of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. When the RMP was approved, it was determined that livestock grazing was an appropriate use of this land. Eliminating grazing is not analyzed because no new issues or concerns have been identified that would require this action.

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT/ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES/MITIGATION MEASURES

CRITICAL RESOURCES

AIR QUALITY

Affected Environment: There are no special designation air sheds or non-attainment areas

nearby that would be affected by either alternative.

Environmental Consequences, all alternatives: Authorizing cattle grazing in the Red Wash Allotment would not cause regional air quality impairment under either of the alternatives. The existing native plant cover provides sufficient cover to the soil surface to protect it from excessive wind erosion, but proper grazing use is necessary to sustain the appropriate plant cover in the allotment. Vehicular access on existing roads for livestock management activities would result in minimal releases of particulate matter (dust) emissions, but this would be minor and not affect the overall air quality of the area.

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Ole Olsen, 10/15/08

AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

Affected Environment: Not present

Environmental Consequences: None

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist: Gina Robison, 09/08/08

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: Grazing authorization renewals are undertakings under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. During Section 106 review, a cultural resource assessment (10.43.08) was completed for this allotment by Robyn Watkins Morris, Little Snake Field Office Archaeologist on September 15, 2008. The assessment followed the procedures and guidance outlined in the 1980 National Programmatic Agreement Regarding The Livestock Grazing And Range Improvement Program, IM-WO-99-039, IM-CO-99-007, IM-CO-99-019, and IM-CO-01-026. The results of the assessment are summarized in the table below. Copies of the cultural resource assessment are in the Field Office archaeology files.

Data developed here was taken from the cultural program project report files, site report files, and base maps kept at the Little Snake Field Office as well as from General Land Office (GLO) maps, BLM land patent records, An Overview of Prehistoric Cultural Resources Little Snake Resource Area, Northwestern Colorado, Bureau of Land Management Colorado, Cultural Resources Series, Number 20, and An Isolated Empire, A History of Northwestern Colorado, Bureau of Land Management Colorado, Cultural Resource Series, Number 2 and Appendix 21 of the Little Snake Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement, Draft February 1986, Bureau of Land Management, Craig, Colorado District, Little Snake Resource Area.

The table below is based on the allotment specific analysis developed for the allotment in this EA. The table shows known cultural resources, eligible and need data, and those that are anticipated to be in the allotment.

Allotment Number	Acres Surveyed at a Class III Level	Acres NOT Surveyed at a Class III Level	Percent of Allotment Inventoried at a Class III Level	Eligible or Need Data Sites- Known in Allotment	Estimated Sites for the Allotment *(total number)	Estimated Eligible or Need Data Sites in the Allotment (number)
04224	289	21965	1.3%	9	583	173

(Note *Estimates of site densities are based on known inventory data. Estimates should be accepted as minimum figures which may be revised upwards based on future inventory findings.)

Twelve cultural resource inventories have been previously conducted within the allotment resulting in the complete coverage of 289 acres and the recording of thirty cultural resources. Thirteen are prehistoric isolated finds, two are isolated paleoindian point base and midsection, nine are open camps, three are open lithics, one is a portion of an historic road, and one is an historic homestead. One is a paleontological resource. There are numerous historic roads on the 1881 and 1906 GLO Plats. Three are named roads: Dim Wagon Road, Bear River to L07 Ranch Wagon Road, and the Thornburgh Road. One ranch was noted on an 1881 GLO plat in T9N R96W Section 9.

Based on available data, a high potential for historic properties occurs in allotment #04224. Subsequent cultural resource inventory will be conducted in areas where livestock concentrate, specifically along historic roads currently used to salt and water livestock. Subsequent field inventory is to be completed within the ten year term of the permit.

If historic properties are located during the subsequent field inventory, and BLM determines that grazing activities are adversely impacting the properties, mitigation will be identified and implemented in consultation with the Colorado SHPO.

A letter was sent to the Uinta and Ouray Tribal Council, Southern Ute Tribal Council, Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Council on May 5, 2008. The letter listed the FY08 and FY09 projects that the BLM would notify them on and projects that would not require notification. A follow up phone call was performed on June 16, 2008. No comments were received (Letter on file at the Little Snake Field Office). This project requires no additional notification.

Environmental Consequences, all alternatives: The direct impacts that occur where livestock concentrate, during normal livestock grazing activity, include trampling, chiseling, and churning of site soils, cultural features, and cultural artifacts, artifact breakage, and impacts from standing, leaning, and rubbing against historic structures, above-ground cultural features, and rock art. Indirect impacts include soil erosion, gullying, and increased potential for unlawful collection and vandalism. Continued livestock use may cause substantial ground disturbance and cause cumulative, long term, irreversible adverse effects to historic properties. Placing saltblocks along roads or anywhere in the allotment would potentially impact historic properties. Additional

monitoring of the historic properties currently known and in the future should continue to determine if livestock impacts are occurring to these properties.

Mitigation Measures: Range improvements associated with the allotment (e.g., fences, spring improvements) are subject to compliance requirements under Section 106 and will undergo standard cultural resources inventory and evaluation procedures.

Standard Stipulations for cultural resources are included in Standard Terms and Conditions (Attachment 2).

Allotment Specific Stipulations.

1. Grandt Homestead (5MF1706) will be fenced or protected in some manner from further livestock damage.

2. Three sites that have no assessment must have their eligibility determined (5MF1707.2, 5MF697, 5MF699)

3. Site monitoring plans, other mitigation plans, will be developed and provided to the Colorado State Historic Preservation Officer in accordance with the Protocol (1998) and subsequent programmatic agreements regarding grazing permit renewals.

Conducting Class II and III survey(s), monitoring, and developing site specific mitigation measures will mitigate the adverse effects to an acceptable level (Cultural Matrix Team Meeting 26 January 1999, NHPA Section 106, 36CFR800.9; Archaeological Resource Protection Act 1979; BLM Colorado and Colorado SHPO Protocol 1998; and NEPA/FLPMA requirements).

Name of specialist and date: Robyn Watkins Morris, 09/15/08

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Affected Environment: The proposed action is located in an area of isolated dwellings. Ranching, farming and oil/gas development are the primary economic activities.

Environmental Consequences, all alternatives: The project area is relatively isolated from population centers, so no populations would be affected by physical or socioeconomic impacts of either alternative. Neither alternative would directly affect the social, cultural or economic well-being and health of Native American, minority or low-income populations.

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of Specialist and date: Mike Andrews, 08/29/08

FLOOD PLAINS

Affected Environment: A large floodplain area is associated with the Little Snake River. The active floodplain is confined by terrace banks and it is completely inundated during late winter and spring flows. After the annual runoff subsides riparian plant communities are present which are stabilizing low flow streambanks, point bars and floodplain areas.

Red Wash and Shaffers Draw are ephemeral drainages with small floodplain areas. Red Wash is a sandy wash where the channel is clogged with sand and movement of channel materials occurs with high flows. Shaffers Draw supports a mature basin big sagebrush community with few desirable understory plants. There is likely some intermittent bank scouring and gullies within each of these ephemeral drainages.

Environmental Consequences, Proposed Action: There would be no adverse affect. Authorized use could vary from year to year in both season of use and livestock numbers. Floodplain resources associated with the Little Snake River would receive less grazing pressure from livestock compared to the Proposed Action Alternative.

Environmental Consequences, No Action Alternative: Under this alternative more livestock grazing pressure on floodplains associated with the Little Snake River would occur. This scheduled annual use with greater livestock numbers increases potential for detrimental effects under various uncontrolled environmental conditions.

Since the active floodplains in this allotment along the Little Snake River are generally comprised of riparian vegetation, the discussion of any impacts will be considered in the riparian section.

Generally both alternatives would be beneficial to floodplain resources along the ephemeral streams within the allotment. The rotational grazing practices that have been implemented ensure that controlled grazing use is occurring within the pastures and that the grazing use is rotated. Floodplain areas would not be used at the same time each year under either of the alternatives.

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Ole Olsen, 10/15/08

INVASIVE, NONNATIVE SPECIES

Affected Environment: Invasive and noxious weeds are present in the affected area. Invasive annuals such as downy brome (cheatgrass), blue mustard and yellow alyssum commonly occur in the affected area and are occupying disturbed areas, plant interspaces and areas where livestock concentrate. Halogeton is not as common, but it is making its way into areas like the Red Wash Allotment along road corridors. Invasive annual weeds are typically

established on disturbed areas and are more abundant in the western lower elevation areas of the allotment, whereas, biennial and perennial noxious weeds are less common in occurrence, but would also invade native plant communities. Downy brome and halogeton are on the Colorado List C of noxious weeds. Colorado List B noxious weeds that are present within the Red Wash Allotment include hoary cress (whitetop), perennial pepperweed (tall whitetop), Canada thistle, musk thistle and bull thistle. The Little Snake River, upland ponds and swale areas would be areas having the most potential to support populations of these List B plants. Other Colorado List B noxious weeds that are present in the vicinity and could potentially become established within these allotments include Russian knapweed, spotted knapweed, leafy spurge, dalmation toadflax, houndstongue and other biennial thistles. The BLM is in cooperation with the Moffat County Cooperative Weed Management program to employ the principals of Integrated Pest Management to control noxious weeds on public lands.

Environmental Consequences, all alternatives: Vehicular access to public lands for dispersed recreation and grazing operations, livestock and wildlife movement, as well as wind and water, can cause weeds to spread into new areas. Surface disturbance due to livestock concentration and human activities associated with grazing operations can also increase weed presence. The perennial noxious weeds in the area are less frequently established on the uplands but some potential exists for their establishment in draws and swales with moister soils. Proper grazing use by livestock is necessary to maintain a resilient native plant community that can occupy bare soils and resist invasive and noxious weed establishment. The largest concern in the project area would be for biennial and perennial noxious weed species to become established and not be detected; once they are detected they can be controlled with various integrated pest management techniques. Land practices and land uses by the livestock operator and their weed control efforts would largely determine the identification and potential occurrence of weeds within the allotment.

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Ole Olsen, 10/15/08

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Affected Environment: The Red Wash Allotment provides nesting habitat for ferruginous hawk, Brewer's sparrow and sage sparrow. All three species are listed on the USFWS 2002 Birds of Conservation Concern List.

Environmental Consequences, Proposed Action: Livestock grazing should not have any negative impacts to nesting habitats for any of these species. The proposed changes to the permit would reduce utilization during the nesting season. It is possible for nest trampling to occur for sage sparrow and Brewer's sparrow. This potential is reduced by the changes in season of use proposed under this alternative. Chance of take occurring is low.

Environmental Consequences, No Action Alternative: Chance of take remains low.

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Timothy Novotny, 9/29/08

NATIVE AMERICAN RELIGIOUS CONCERNS

A letter was sent to the Uinta and Ouray Tribal Council, Southern Ute Tribal Council, Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Council, and the Eastern Shoshone on July 11, 2007. The letter listed the grazing allotments up for renewal in FY07 and included a map of the areas. A follow up phone call was performed on August 14, 2007. No comments were received (Letter on file at the Little Snake Field Office). This project requires no additional notification.

Name of specialist and date: Robyn Watkins Morris, 09/15/08

PRIME & UNIQUE FARMLANDS

Affected Environment: There is no Prime and Unique Farmlands present within the Red Wash Allotment.

Environmental Consequences, All Alternatives: None

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Ole Olsen, 10/15/08

T&E AND SENSITIVE ANIMALS

Affected Environment: There are no threatened or endangered animal species or habitats for such species present in or near the Red Wash Allotment. This grazing allotment does provide breeding and nesting habitat for greater sage-grouse, a BLM special status species. There are three active greater sage-grouse lek sites within this allotment. There are an additional two lek sites within two miles of this grazing allotment.

Environmental Consequences, Proposed Action: The Proposed Action would not have any adverse impacts on any threatened or endangered species or habitats for such species. The proposed action would result in changes to the existing grazing permit. These changes would likely be beneficial to greater sage-grouse. The proposed changes would not have adverse impacts on breeding habitat but would reduce the amount of use by livestock during the sage-grouse nesting season. This would reduce that potential for nest destruction by trampling. It is also likely that it could lead to improved nesting habitat within this grazing allotment.

Environmental Consequences, No Action Alternative: The No Action Alternative would not have adverse impacts on any threatened or endangered species or habitats for such species.

This alternative would not reduce livestock utilization during the sage-grouse nesting season and is less likely to improve nesting success within this allotment.

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Timothy Novotny, 09/29/08

T&E AND SENSITIVE PLANTS

Affected Environment: There are no federally listed threatened or endangered or BLM sensitive plant species present on the Red Wash Allotment #04224.

Environmental Consequences, all alternatives: None

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Hunter Seim, 08/26/08

WASTES, HAZARDOUS OR SOLID

Affected Environment: There are no hazardous materials present on the Red Wash Allotment.

Environmental Consequences, all alternatives: Potential releases of hazardous materials could occur due to vehicular access for livestock management operations. Coolant, oil, and fuel are materials that could potentially be released. Due to the limited amount of vehicular activity that would be required, the potential for releases of any of these materials is low and if a release were to occur, it would be minimal and highly localized and not result in an adverse impact to the allotment.

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Mark Lowrey, 09/01/08

WATER QUALITY - GROUND

Affected Environment: Surface rock consists of Eocene Wasatch Formation units overlain by Quaternary alluvium. The Wasatch Formation does contain groundwater aquifers.

Environmental Consequences, all alternatives: Surface disturbance associated with livestock grazing would have no impacts to groundwater resources.

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Marilyn D. Wegweiser, 08/25/08

WATER QUALITY - SURFACE

Affected Environment: Runoff from the Red Wash Allotment primarily flows to Red Wash with some drainage along the southwestern edge of the allotment flowing to Shaffers Draw. These drainages are ephemeral tributaries to the Little Snake River. This segment of the Little Snake River needs to have water quality that supports Aquatic Life Warm 1, Recreation 1a and Agriculture. Tributary waters along this segment need to have water quality that supports Aquatic Life Cold 2, Recreation 2 and Agriculture. The water quality within all of these affected streams is currently supporting the classified uses they need to support.

Environmental Consequences, Proposed Action: Slight beneficial impacts to water quality are expected to result from implementation of the Proposed Action. Benefits to water quality would be expected from the improvement of forage resources and improved surface soil stability that would result from the modification of the grazing rotation.

Environmental Consequences, No Action Alternative: Selection of the No Action Alternative would still require proper grazing use of forage resources within the Red Wash Allotment. Generally, larger areas of concentrated livestock use, grazing use near the end of the growing period for plants and subsequently less opportunity for plant regrowth would occur under the No Action Alternative. This alternative would increase the opportunity for water quality impairment.

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Ole Olsen, 10/22/08

WETLANDS/RIPARIAN ZONES

Affected Environment: Two reaches along the west side of the Little Snake River are included in pasture 6 of the Red Wash Allotment. Little Snake River Reach 21 (4.5 miles) was non-functional in 1994 and was functioning properly in July 2004. The difference in the rating is reflected by the development of a stable floodplain. Further north, most of Reach 22 is within the Red Wash Allotment (0.37 miles). It was rated as non-functional in 1999. Reach 22 was reassessed in 2008, as functioning at risk with an upward trend. Riparian vegetation had developed below the terrace and the cobbles were covered with fine soil materials. The dominant riparian plants were a spike rush species and three-square bulrush. Coyote willow and many mesic grasses and forbs were scattered from the greenline to the upper riparian zone. Heavy trailing and deep hoof imprints from cattle, deer and elk were present along the upper riparian area.

Environmental Consequences, Proposed Action: As the high flows of the river recede more of the floodplain and riparian area are exposed, and cattle would cross these areas to water in the

river. Later in the grazing period as more riparian area is exposed there would be an increased tendency for the cows to persist longer and graze on riparian plants. Trampling along the floodplain/riparian area would increase. Since the area is not large, a few cattle could easily over utilize this riparian area. All the above affects are possible if the area is used annually, at fully authorized levels. The season of use and livestock numbers under this alternative are built to be flexible and will vary from year to year. Under this alternative the maximum number of AUMs is 69 compared to the no action alternative in which annual scheduled use is 193 AUMs. At a 36% reduction of AUMs from previously authorized and only 50 cattle, plus deferment until June 1st, chances of detrimental impacts even with the extended season of use are reduced. It is not known if the river provides the sole source of water in this pasture, if other water is available in this pasture then chance of adverse impacts is further reduced. Emergency/reserved use during this period could be very detrimental to the riparian resources during the year the pasture would be authorized for this use. Multiple years of emergency/reserved use should not be authorized.

Environmental Consequences, No Action Alternative: Although this will vary from year to year in general, grazing within the riparian area in May would be reduced as this portion of the river may still be inundated by high annual flows. Therefore, in theory, grazing on the riparian plants is only occurring every other year in the later spring and early summer period (6/3 to 7/2). Regardless of season or river flows any riparian plants available to livestock would be grazed annually by greater numbers of livestock that under the proposed action. This alternative would have greater potential for long term adverse impacts when compared to the proposed levels and frequency of grazing under the Proposed Action Alternative.

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Ole Olsen, 10/15/08

WILD & SCENIC RIVERS

Affected Environment: Not Present

Environmental Consequences, all alternatives: None

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Gina Robison, 09/08/08

WSAs, WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

Affected Environment: Not Present

Environmental Consequences, all alternatives: None

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Gina Robison, 09/08/08

NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS

SOILS

Affected Environment: The primary soils mapped in the western lower elevation areas of the Red Wash Allotment include the Ryark-Maybell complex, 1 to 12 percent slopes; Ryark-Powderwash complex, 2 to 15 percent slopes; Ruedloff sandy loam, 1 to 8 percent slopes; and Simanni-Ruedloff complex, 1 to 10 percent slopes (Shaffers Draw). On the higher elevations to the east the primary soils types are the Maysprings-Gretdivid complex, 10 to 20 percent slopes; Rock River sandy loam, 3 to 12 percent slopes; and Maysprings coarse sandy loam, 3 to 12 percent slopes. Steeper slopes flanking the western edges of Red Wash and Shaffers Draw are mapped as Torriorthents-Torripsamments complex, 12 to 40 percent slopes as well as smaller areas of steeper slopes within the allotment. Generally these soils are deep, exhibit medium runoff, moderate permeability and a low water holding capacity. The Rock River soil has a moderate water holding capacity and the Powderwash soil has high runoff, low permeability and moderate depths. The Torriorthents-Torripsamments complex soils are variable in depth from shallow to deep, have high runoff rates and very low water holding capacity. The water erosion hazard after moderate disturbance is slight and increases to moderate on the steeper soils. Also, with the exception of the Torriorthents-Torripsamments complex soils the primary soils that are within the Red Wash Allotment are highly susceptible to wind erosion. All of these soils are suited for livestock grazing.

Biological soil crusts do not typically develop into complex diverse crust communities within grazing allotments. Mosses are the most observable biological soil crust and these are found below the edge of the brush canopy, where trampling effects are lessened and sunlight is available. Cyanobacteria is present in the plant inter-spaces where forage and litter cover is not abundant and would likely be present on the less productive soils in the allotment.

Environmental Consequences, all alternatives: Soil compaction and depleted soil cover are the most obvious impacts incurred to the soil resource as a result of livestock grazing. These affects would occur on areas receiving concentrated livestock use under either alternative, but the majority of the affected lands within the allotments would have adequate plant and litter cover. The soils have properties that are fairly favorable or moderate regarding runoff and permeability rates, but it is essential to maintain the appropriate plant cover to avoid wind erosion. Proper grazing use of the forage resource (no more than 50% utilization) would sustain the ground cover necessary to protect the soil surface from water erosion and excessive wind erosion. Rotating grazing use would also decrease the areas of concentrated use and reduce the potential for soil compaction by using different pastures in the spring and fall.

Plant regrowth would be dependent on soil moisture remaining after the grazing period or on

additional precipitation that is received. The soils in the western portion of the Red Wash Allotment have a low water holding capacity, but could receive additional spring moisture in May and June that would supplement moisture levels. A large area of the eastern portion of the allotment is comprised of the Rock River sandy loam soil which has a moderate water holding capacity and would be more capable of supporting plant regrowth.

It is not anticipated that loss or gain of biological soil crusts would occur as a result of implementing either of the alternatives.

Environmental Consequences, Proposed Action: Grazing rotations between the pastures within the Red Wash Allotment with incorporation of the additional Lower Spring Creek Allotment would increase vigor of the key forage plants and their root systems, resulting in more forage production, more seedling recruitment, more soil cover and more extensive and healthier root systems. Elimination of the grazing period in the Red Wash Allotment between June 5th and August 18 would allow additional plant regrowth in the pastures grazed early in the rotation and allow plants to set seed prior to being grazed later in the rotation.

Environmental Consequences, No Action Alternative: Current conditions would continue to persist. Currently there are no known soil resource concerns on the Red Wash Allotment. However, this alternative would not provide the benefits associated with the Proposed Action Alternative.

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Ole Olsen, 10/31/08

UPLAND VEGETATION

Affected Environment: Characteristic vegetation in the Red Wash Allotment includes, but is not limited to, native perennial grasses such as needleandthread, Indian ricegrass, western wheatgrass, and bottlebrush squirreltail as the primary species. Shrubs include Wyoming big sage, antelope bitterbrush, and rabbitbrush. Forbs include vetch, lupine, buckwheat, sunflowers, and western yarrow. Prickly pear cactus is also abundant in some areas. Non natives/invasive include cheatgrass, Japanese brome, and crested wheatgrass that was intentionally planted sometime in the past.

Environmental Consequences, Proposed Action: Removing the majority of livestock from the allotment during the hot season period of 06/05 – 08/18, plus the deferred rotation grazing system would have beneficial impacts to upland vegetation. Reducing defoliation during this hot season and deferring grazing pressure would facilitate reproduction, seed set vigor, and recruitment for native perennial species. This in turn would help to prevent potential spread of noxious weeds and/or invasive species. Habitat quality and biodiversity is would increase over time.

Environmental Consequences, No Action Alternative: Current conditions would continue to persist. Currently there are no resource concerns with upland vegetation. However, the grazing system under the current permit is less feasible under drought conditions and has been modified as needed to maintain sustained grazing forage. If the No Action Alternative were to be implemented and enforced, upland vegetation would receive more utilization during the hot season than under the Proposed Action Alternative, thus increasing the potential for adverse impacts.

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Mark Lowrey, 09/09/08

WILDLIFE, AQUATIC

Affected Environment: The Little Snake River runs along the western border of the Red Wash Allotment. This river is capable of supporting a variety of aquatic wildlife species including warm water fish and various amphibians and crustaceans.

Environmental Consequences, Proposed Action: The proposed changes to the grazing permit would reduce impacts to riparian habitats by reducing the number of livestock and frequency of utilization during the hot season. Improving riparian habitats would improve habitats for aquatic wildlife species utilizing this reach of the Little Snake River.

Environmental Consequences, No Action Alternative: This alternative is less likely to improve the riparian system along the Little Snake River. Aquatic wildlife habitats associated with this riparian system are not likely to improve if pasture 6 is grazed annually with the permitted numbers of livestock under this alternative.

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Timothy Novotny, 09/29/08

WILDLIFE, TERRESTRIAL

Affected Environment: The Red Wash Allotment provides year round habitat for mule deer, elk and pronghorn antelope including severe winter range for all three species. A variety of small mammals, songbirds and reptiles may be found within this allotment as well.

Environmental Consequences, Proposed Action: The proposed action would reduce utilization during the hot season but would increase utilization during the fall. Most small mammals, reptiles and songbirds would benefit. The change in use could result in increased competition with wintering big game animals. Outside of unpredictable environmental conditions such as drought, utilization rates should remain low enough that no big game species are negatively impacted.

Environmental Consequences, No Action Alternative: There would be no changes to the proposed grazing permit. This would not have any impact on any wildlife species.

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Timothy Novotny, 09/29/08

OTHER NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS: For the following elements, those brought forward for analysis will be formatted as shown above.

Non-Critical Element	NA or Not Present	Applicable or Present, No Impact	Applicable & Present and Brought Forward for Analysis
Fluid Minerals		MDW 08/25/08	
Forest Management	MAL 09/02/08		
Hydrology/Ground		MDW 08/25/08	
Hydrology/Surface		OO 10/17/08	
Paleontology		MDW 08/25/08	
Range Management		MAL 09/02/08	
Realty Authorizations		MAA 8/29/08	
Recreation/Travel Mgmt		GR 09/08/08	
Socio-Economics		MAA 8/29/08	
Solid Minerals		JAM 8/25/2008	
Visual Resources		GR 09/08/08	
Wild Horse & Burro Mgmt	MAL 09/02/08		

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY: This allotment and areas surrounding have historically been grazed by both sheep and cattle. Numerous maintained and unmaintained roads exist throughout the area, including on the allotment. These roads are used regularly by local residents and ranchers as well by as the primary recreation users in the area, hunters. Wildlife populations in the area are high, especially for deer and elk that compete with livestock for available forage throughout the area. The Proposed Action to continue grazing on this allotment is compatible with other uses, both historic and present, and would not add any new or detrimental impacts to those that are already present.

STANDARDS

PLANT AND ANIMAL COMMUNITY (animal) STANDARD: The Red Wash Allotment currently provides healthy productive habitats capable of supporting diverse populations of wildlife. The Proposed Action would reduce utilization during the hot season. This would likely benefit ground nesting species. The change in season of use may decrease winter range habitat slightly. The No Action Alternative would not shift season of use towards fall use. This would

not allow for benefits to ground nesting bird species but would not impact winter habitat either. This standard is currently being met and would continue to be met under the Proposed Action or the No Action Alternative.

Name of specialist and date: Timothy Novotny, 09/29/08

SPECIAL STATUS, THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES (animal) STANDARD: There are no threatened or endangered animal species or habitats for such species present with the Red Wash Allotment. This allotment does provide breeding and nesting habitat for greater sage-grouse, a BLM special status species. The Proposed Action would decrease utilization during the nesting season. This would benefit greater sage-grouse. The No Action Alternative would not provide any benefits to this species. This standard is currently being met and would continue to be met under either alternative.

Name of specialist and date: Timothy Novotny, 09/29/08

PLANT AND ANIMAL COMMUNITY (plant) STANDARD: This allotment is currently meeting this standard. The Proposed Action removes the majority of use during the warmer period in the summer, and removes 158 AUMs from annual use. The current stocking rate for this allotment is appropriate and use would not exceed utilization greater than 50% for herbaceous species. The Proposed Action would continue to meet this standard.

The No Action Alternative would also continue to meet this standard as there are no vegetation resource concerns on the Red Wash Allotment. Grazing has been rotated over the past 10 years to benefit forage productivity.

Name of specialist and date: Mark Lowrey, 09/09/08

SPECIAL STATUS, THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES (plant) STANDARD: There are no federally listed threatened or endangered or BLM sensitive plant species present on the Red Wash Allotment #04224. This standard does not apply.

Name of specialist and date: Hunter Seim, 08/26/08

RIPARIAN SYSTEMS STANDARD: The riparian standard for healthy rangelands would be met with the implementation of the Proposed Action Alternative. The riparian plant community that has developed below the terrace banks of the Little Snake River since 1999 has stabilized streambanks adjacent to the river at low flows. A controlled period of grazing use during June and July would be tolerated by the riparian system that has developed. Riparian plant recovery after the grazing period would be adequate to protect the streambanks during high flows the following spring.

The No Action Alternative would also meet this standard as the riparian system along the Little Snake River has moved from a non-functional rating to functioning properly in Reach 21 and to

functioning at risk with an upward trend for Reach 22.

Name of specialist and date: Ole Olsen, 10/31/08

WATER QUALITY STANDARD: The water quality standard for healthy rangelands is met for this allotment. This standard would be met under either the Proposed or the No Action Alternatives. Runoff waters from snowmelt and rain drains to the Little Snake River which is supporting classified uses. No stream segments or tributaries are currently listed as having impaired water quality. Rotational grazing practices are considered to be best management practices that would help reduce the overall sediment and nutrient load of runoff water from the Red Wash Allotment.

Name of specialist and date: Ole Olsen, 10/31/08

UPLAND SOILS STANDARD: The upland soil standard is met for both the Proposed and the No Action Alternatives. Both alternatives include rotational grazing practices that would promote better grazing distribution and allow the grass component to have increased vigor and provide more soil cover. Proper grazing use of the forage resource is required under the terms and conditions of the permit under each of these alternatives; this level of grazing would maintain sufficient residual forage for upland soil health to be maintained.

Name of specialist and date: Ole Olsen, 10/31/08

PERSONS/AGENCIES CONSULTED: Uintah and Ouray Tribal Council, Colorado Native American Commission, Colorado State Historic Preservation Office, John & Ed Brannan

ATTACHMENTS: Attachment 1, Allotment Map
Attachment 2, Standard and Common Terms and Conditions

SIGNATURE OF PREPARER:

DATE SIGNED:

SIGNATURE OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWER:

DATE SIGNED:

Finding of No Significant Impact

The environmental assessment, analyzing the environmental effects of the proposed action, has been reviewed. With the implementation of the attached mitigation measures there is a finding of no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not necessary to further analyze the environmental effects of the proposed action.

1. Beneficial, adverse, direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts have been disclosed in the EA. Analysis indicated no significant impacts on society as a whole, the affected region, the affected interests or the locality. The physical and biological effects are limited to the Little Snake Resource Area and adjacent land.

2. Public health and safety would not be adversely impacted. There are no known or anticipated concerns with project waste or hazardous materials.

3. There would be no adverse impacts to regional or local air quality, prime or unique farmlands, known paleontological resources on public land within the area, wetlands, floodplain, areas with unique characteristics, ecologically critical areas or designated Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.

4. There are no highly controversial effects on the environment.

5. There are no effects that are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risk. Sufficient information on risk is available based on information in the EA and other past actions of a similar nature.

6. This alternative does not set a precedent for other actions that may be implemented in the future to meet the goals and objectives of adopted Federal, State or local natural resource related plans, policies or programs.

7. No cumulative impacts related to other actions that would have a significant adverse impact were identified or are anticipated.

8. Based on previous and ongoing cultural surveys, and through mitigation by avoidance, no adverse impacts to cultural resources were identified or anticipated. There are no known American Indian religious concerns or persons or groups who might be disproportionately and adversely affected as anticipated by the Environmental Justice Policy.

9. No adverse impacts to any threatened or endangered species or their habitat that was determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act were identified. If, at a future time, there could be the potential for adverse impacts, treatments would be modified or mitigated not to have an adverse effect or new analysis would be conducted.

10. This alternative is in compliance with relevant Federal, State, and local laws, regulations, and requirements for the protection of the environment.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:

DATE SIGNED:

ATTACHMENT #2
CO-100-2008-091 EA
TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Standard Terms and Conditions

1) Grazing permit or lease terms and conditions and the fees charged for grazing use are established in accordance with the provisions of the grazing regulations now or hereafter approved by the Secretary of the Interior.

2) They are subject to cancellation, in whole or in part, at any time because of:
   a. Noncompliance by the permittee/lessee with rules and regulations;
   b. Loss of control by the permittee/lessee of all or a part of the property upon which it is based;
   c. A transfer of grazing preference by the permittee/lessee to another party;
   d. A decrease in the lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management within the allotment(s) described;
   e. Repeated willful unauthorized grazing use;
   f. Loss of qualifications to hold a permit or lease.

3) They are subject to the terms and conditions of allotment management plans if such plans have been prepared. Allotment management plans MUST be incorporated in permits and leases when completed.

4) Those holding permits or leases MUST own or control and be responsible for the management of livestock authorized to graze.

5) The authorized officer may require counting and/or additional or special marking or tagging of the livestock authorized to graze.

6) The permittee's/lessee's grazing case file is available for public inspection as required by the Freedom of Information Act.

7) Grazing permits or leases are subject to the nondiscrimination clauses set forth in Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1964, as amended. A copy of this order may be obtained from the authorized officer.

8) Livestock grazing use that is different from that authorized by a permit or lease MUST be applied for prior to the grazing period and MUST be filed with and approved by the authorized officer before grazing use can be made.

9) Billing notices are issued which specify fees due. Billing notices, when paid, become a part of the grazing permit or lease. Grazing use cannot be authorized during any period of delinquency in the payment of amounts due, including settlement for unauthorized use.

10) Grazing fee payments are due on the date specified on the billing notice and MUST be paid in full within 15 days of the due date, except as otherwise provided in the grazing permit or lease. If payment is not made within that time frame, a late fee (the greater of $25 or 10 percent of the amount owed but not more than $250) will be assessed.

11) No member of, or Delegate to, Congress or Resident Commissioner, after his/her election of appointment, or either before or after he/she has qualified, and during his/her continuance in office, and no officer, agent, or employee of the Department of Interior, other than members of Advisory committees appointed in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. 1) and Sections 309 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) shall be admitted to any share or part in a permit or lease, or derive any benefit to arise therefrom; and the provision of Section 3741 Revised Statute (41 U.S.C. 22), 18 U.S.C. Sections 431-433, and 43 CFR Part 7, enter into and form a part of a grazing permit or lease, so far as the same may be applicable.

Common Terms and Conditions

A) Grazing use will not be authorized in excess of the amount of specified grazing use (AUM number) for each allotment. Numbers of livestock annually authorized in the allotment(s) may be more or less than the number listed on the permit/lease within the grazing use periods as long as the amount of specified grazing use is not exceeded.

B) Unless there is a specific term and condition addressing utilization, the intensity of grazing use will insure that no more than 50% of the key grass species and 40% of the key browse species current years growth, by weight, is utilized at the end of the grazing season for winter allotments and the end of the growing season for allotments used during the growing season. Application of this term needs to recognize recurring livestock management that includes opportunity for regrowth, opportunity for spring growth prior to grazing, or growing season deferment.

C) Failure to maintain range improvements to BLM standards in accordance with signed cooperative agreements and/or range improvement permits may result in the suspension of the annual grazing authorization, cancellation of the cooperative agreement or range improvement permit, and/or the eventual cancellation of this permit/lease.

D) Storing or feeding supplemental forage on public lands other than salt or minerals must have prior approval. Forage to be fed or stored on public lands must be certified noxious weed-free. Salt and/or other mineral supplements shall be placed at least one-quarter mile from water sources or in such a manner as to promote even livestock distribution in the allotment or pasture.

E) Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the holder of this authorization must notify the authorized officer, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.

The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the allotment operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are encountered or uncovered during any allotment activities or grazing activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate vicinity and immediately contact the authorized officer. Within five working days the authorized officer will inform the operator as to:

-whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
-the mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the identified area can be used for grazing activities again.

If paleontological materials (fossils) are uncovered during allotment activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities that might further disturb such materials and contact the authorized officer. The operator and the authorized officer will consult and determine the best options for avoiding or mitigating paleontological site damage.

F) No hazardous materials/hazardous or solid waste/trash shall be disposed of on public lands. If a release does occur, it shall immediately be reported to this office at (970) 826-5000.

G) The permittee/lessee shall provide reasonable administrative access across private and leased lands to the BLM and its agents for the orderly management and protection of public lands.

H) Application of a chemical or release of pathogens or insects on public lands must be approved by the authorized officer.

I) The terms and conditions of this permit or lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform with 43 CFR 4180.